

Prescription Drop-Off Program

One of the Department's programs growing with each year, is the Prescription Drop Off. The program provides an easy and safe method to get rid of or destroy expired and unnecessary prescription pills. The Tullahoma Police Department, in conjunction with the Coffee County Anti Drug Coalition, provide a mailbox type receptacle that is available on a 24/7 basis.

The department and the Coalition recognize that prescription pill abuse and illegal use is a major concern in our communities. By providing the receptacle and an easy means to dispose of prescriptions, we hope to reduce the availability of medications. The process for disposing of items in the receptacle is quite simple. The mailbox receptacle is located in the lobby of the department. Medications may be left in the original plastic bottle or placed in a plastic bag. If the medication is a liquid form, please leave it in a plastic container as we can not accept glass bottles. To dispose of medications, a citizen would simply open the receptacle and drop the items in. There are no forms to complete and no questions asked. The department collects all the medications on a monthly basis, makes a log of what is removed, destroys the plastic bottles, and then destroys the medications by incineration. The department also has a "sharps" container available so needles and syringes may be disposed.

Monthly reports indicate on average, 15 to 20 pounds of prescriptions are turned in. As a cumulative total, in 2012 a total 294 pounds was collected; the 2013 total was 422 pounds; and 2014 total collected was 411 pounds. This represents a large amount of prescriptions no longer available for abuse, theft, or illegal use by friends, children, and others. The Department and the Coalition encourage citizens to tell family members of the program and do their part to reduce the availability of medications for abuse or simply provide a safe method of destroying old medication. Any question about this or other Department programs may be directed to Chief Paul Blackwell at (931) 455-0530 or pblackwell@tullahomatan.gov.